

Animal Encounters

What is that crawling, slithering, sliding, flying, and hopping across the trail or even in your backyard? Each week we will look at one of our resident education animals for a mini lesson of animals that call Tennessee home. Come out and meet the best teachers we have – the animals!

Ages: All
 Day: Saturdays (*No Animal Encounters on October 29)
 Time: 1:30 – 2 p.m.
 Location: Wilderness Station
 Fee: Free
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
 outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov



Puppets on the Porch

You heard it right! The Wilderness Station now has puppet shows every Saturday on the front porch. Kids and parents of all ages will enjoy our lively shows that feature all sorts of fun characters. Laugh and sing along with our wild animal puppets as they teach us about their habitats and daily lives. A new show will be featured every week, so join us on the porch for what is sure to be a funny and educational time!

Ages: All
 Day: Saturdays in September
 Time: 3 p.m.
 Fee: Free
 Location: Wilderness Station
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
 outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

Wild Things

Welcome to the Wilderness! Introduce your child to the wonders of nature in this fun-filled class designed just for them. Each week the adventure starts with unique songs and a discussion about the animal of the week. We reinforce each topic with a simple craft and a nature hike or fun activity. Join us each Wednesday and learn about the wonderful, wacky wildlife that lives in Tennessee. Registration is required. Please call the Tuesday before class to register.

Ages: 1 – 4 years with adult
 Day: Wednesdays
 Times: 9:30 a.m. (Call on the Tuesday before for registration.)
 Fee: \$3.00 or Premium Pass
 Location: Wilderness Station
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
 outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov. Registration required.

Have your child's next birthday party at the Wilderness Station

Choose one of our exciting nature-themed programs led by a park naturalist. Visit our website for full descriptions, pricing, and scheduling at www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks under Wilderness Station.



Tales and Trails

What child doesn't love a good story, or a fun hike in the woods? Each week, the Wilderness Station will offer a new story that your child will love. We will discover fun and interesting tales about Tennessee's native wildlife and their habitats. Then, we will bring these tales to life by exploring the trails that are all around us. Curious children and adults alike are sure to enjoy this fun new program. Registration is required. Please call the Tuesday before class to register.

Ages: 4 – 7 years with adult
 Day: Wednesdays
 Time: 10:30 a.m. (Call on the Tuesday before for reservations.)
 Fee: \$3.00 or Premium Pass
 Location: Wilderness Station
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
 outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov. Reservation required.



Nature Play Days

It's a play date with Mother Nature! Come play in the Nature Play Area and help build your child's interest in learning to play with objects found in nature. Build a fort, play in the water, climb, crawl, get dirty! Programmer-led activities such as mud painting, sculpting with clay, chalk art, and balance and agility competitions. It will be naturally fun for all. **Kids will get muddy and wet.

Ages: 1 year and up with adult
 Dates: September 14 and October 5
 Day: Wednesdays
 Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Fee: Free
 Location: Wilderness Station
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
 outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov



FREE Backpacks for Education!

The Greenway and Wilderness Station are now offering free educational backpacks for morning and afternoon checkout. These backpacks are a great way to introduce your children or students to nature. Whether you're a teacher or interested parent, our educational backpacks offer fun and learning to children of all ages. Each backpack has a theme and includes specific learning material and programs surrounding the theme. The themes are: Birds, Trees, Insects, and Wildflowers. So pick your favorite subject and get outside to explore and learn about Tennessee's beautiful wilderness. Backpacks may be checked out at the Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park.

**We now rent ENO Hammocks. Come and "Hang-Out" at Barfield Crescent Park for the day. Inquire at the Wilderness Station.



Homeschool in the Wilderness

Supplement your home-schooler's science curriculum with this in-depth, 8-month program. We will explore a new topic each month through hands-on experiments, live observations, interpretive hikes and group discoveries. Registration begins September 1, 2016. Limited spaces will be available, so register early!



Tadpoles:

Ages: 8 – 10 years
Dates: September 2016 – May 2017
Days: Last Thursday of the month

Bullfrogs:

Ages: 11 -13 years
Dates: September 2016 – May 2017
Days: Last Friday of the month
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Fee: \$75.00 for 8-month program
Location: Wilderness Station
Contact: Rachel Singer, 615-217-3017, rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov
Registration is required.

Turtle Searches

Calling all researchers – whether you are a junior scientist, senior scientist, animal lover, or interested citizen, join us as we continue our box turtle study right here in Murfreesboro. These lovable reptiles are losing ground and listed as a species of concern in Tennessee due to habitat loss and being taken as household pets. Now is your chance to be a part of a research team to collect data on this important species and make a difference! Participate in one or as many as you wish. Information on the box turtle and instructions will be provided upon arrival.



Note: This is an off-trail experience in the woods; please wear long pants and closed-toed shoes or boots. Bug spray and water are recommended.

This program may also be scheduled for small groups, clubs, or scouts.

Ages: 8 and up
Date: Tuesdays, September 13, 20, and 27, and October 4
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Nickajack Wetlands (call for directions)
Fee: Free
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

Hummingbird Festival

Barfield Crescent Park is home to hundreds of hummingbirds. Many people come to the Wilderness Station to enjoy the chatter and beauty of these tiny birds throughout the season. Come and join us in celebrating these amazing creatures as they get ready to embark on a magnificent journey thousands of miles away. Guest speaker Cyndi Routledge of Southeastern Avian Research will share her knowledge and experience with these flying gems, plus children's activities, hummingbird merchandise, and much more awaits you on this day. Join us in the morning and again in the afternoon as SEAR bands hummingbirds – see description below for details.

Ages: All
Date: Saturday, September 3
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Fee: Free
Location: Wilderness Station
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov



Hummingbird Banding

Bird banding is a valuable tool in the education and conservation of a species. Join trained hummingbird bander Cyndi Routledge of Southeastern Avian Research as she captures, bands, and releases hummingbirds at Barfield. Then stay the day for the Hummingbird Festival.

Ages: All
Date: Saturday, September 3
Time: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (depending on presence birds)
Fee: Free
Location: Wilderness Station
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

Bird Club

Join us for our monthly walk as we search together for fall migrants and resident birds of Tennessee. Murfreesboro's Bird Club welcomes all levels of experience and we encourage anyone who is interested in birds or bird behavior to join us! Please bring your own binoculars if you have them. We have a few to lend out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ages: 6+
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dates and Locations:
Saturday, September 10 at Nickajack Wetlands
Thursday, October 6 at Wilderness Station FALL BREAK FUN
Saturday, November 26 at Gateway Island
Fee: Free
Contact: Niki Jordan, 615-217-3017, njordan@murfreesborotn.gov

Survival Bracelets – FALL BREAK FUN

Who knew survival could come down to what you are wearing on your arm? Learn several different knots and styles of survival bracelets and some of the neat things they could be used for in a pinch. Then go home with your very own survival apparel.

Reservations Required.

Ages: 10 and up

Date: October 6

Day: Thursday

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$3.00

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

**Howl-O-Ween Twilight Trail**

Enjoy a family friendly, not-so-spooky, alternative to the Halloween season. Load up on a hayride and experience the forest at dusk. Then stay and play at our Howl-O-Ween party. Games, puppet shows, story time, and live animals will make this the best Halloween celebration you have ever been to. When you are finished with the fun, the hayride will take you back to enjoy the rest of the Barfield Bash.

Ages: All

Dates: October 21 and 22

Day: Friday and Saturday

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fee: \$4.00

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017.
Reservations are required.

Fall Leaf Animal Collages

Let your creativity loose and see what animal comes to life on your paper. We provide all the materials (frame included) and simple instructive examples, and you get to have all the fun! We will look at leaves, their colors, shapes, and patterns. Learn about the different tree species in our state while making a great gift idea for the holidays.

Ages: 8 and up

Date: November 12

Day: Saturday

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$5.00

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Wilderness Station,
615-217-3017, outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

**Nature Journaling**

Turn your aspirations to study nature into a reality. Hike, write, and draw. This two-hour class provides an instruction to nature journaling by honing skills in observation, sketching, and the appreciation of nature's beauty and mystery. Instruction manual and supplies provided. You are invited to come once, or on a monthly basis at the 'Art in Nature' social meet where we will continue to study and draw from the natural world.

Reservations are required.

Ages: Adult

Date: September 13, October 11, November 8

Day: 2nd Tuesdays of each month

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fee: Initial fee of \$15.00 (includes instruction manual),
monthly meeting fee \$5.00 (includes drawing supplies)

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Rosanna Ohlsson-Salmon, 615-217-3017,
rohlssonsalmon@murfreesborotn.gov

**Teachers, Homeschoolers, and Scouts:**

Field Trips and Field Study opportunities for your group.

We have added several new programs to share with your group. We can now accommodate large classes or small rotational groups. All programs are correlated with state standards or can be adjusted to satisfy badge requirements. Contact Rachel Singer for a complete list of programs and locations at 615-217-3017 or rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov or check out our website at www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks under Wilderness Station or Greenway & Wetlands.





Family Campout - FALL BREAK FUN

It's still backpacking but made as family-friendly as possible. Begin with an easy 1 mile hike in to the campground. Once there, park staff will be on-hand to help you set up and settle in. Various activities will be planned throughout the night for you to choose to participate in or just relax in front of the campfire. Dinner and breakfast will be provided and are included in your registration fee. Guided Night Hikes, Owl Prowls, Children's Activities and Games, Campfire Fun, and Music will make this camping experience a night to remember.

Tents (2-person & 4-person), ground cloths, sleeping pads, and backpacks (available in both youth and adult sizes) are available by request when registering to camp. Don't forget to schedule your Wilderness Awareness Workshop when you register – this workshop is required before you camp. Reservations are required.

Menu –

Dinner: Hotdogs or Campfire Pita Pizza, chips, drink

Dessert: S'Mores

Breakfast: Muffins, coffee, and orange juice

Ages: All

Date: Saturday, October 1 – Sunday, October 2

Check-in: between 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Wilderness Station

Location: Barfield Crescent Backcountry Campground

Fee: \$10.00/Adult – \$5.00/Children 5-12 – Children 4 and under are free with paying adult.

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov
Reservation required.

Wilderness Awareness Workshop

This program is required prior to camping at the Barfield Park Campground. This fun, light-hearted presentation is designed to include campground etiquette and Leave No Trace outdoor ethics.

Ages: 6 and up must attend before camping at the Barfield Campground

Date: Saturday, September 24

Time: 2:00 pm

Dates: Tuesday, September 27 and September 30

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Wilderness Station

Fee: Free

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

Campfire Circle

Campfires are filled with magic and make great memories for families, couples, and individuals. Join us on a fun and memorable adventure and leave your worries at home. First, meander along a paved trail at twilight for a guided nature hike. Fall is a busy time for the animals as they have to make preparations for the long winter ahead. Learn how they are getting ready and what adaptations they have to help them survive. Arrive at the glowing fire for a tasty treat, and then settle in for songs, skits, and friendships that ignite. It's fun for the whole family. A one-mile hike each way is required.

Ages: All

Dates: Saturday, October 15

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Saturday, November 12

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Wilderness Station

Fee: \$3.00

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov



Gourmet Campfire Cooking

You can prepare a whole gourmet meal with the help of a campfire. Come have fun as Wilderness Station staff leads you through cooking a delicious meal over the fire. Then enjoy your masterpiece in the crisp autumn evening. An approximately 1-mile hike each way on a paved trail is required. Reservations required.

Ages: 13 and up

Date: Saturday, October 15

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10.00

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov



34 Outdoor Programs



Family Kayak Float

Grab the family and paddle down the beautiful Stones River. Enjoy an adventure with your loved ones as we tour Murfreesboro from a different view. You'll be amazed at the beauty and wildlife that can be seen on this trip. Space is limited, and reservations are required. All equipment and instruction are provided. Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult.

Ages: 10 and up
 Dates: October 7 FALL BREAK FUN
 Day: Friday
 Time: 1:00 p.m.
 Date: November 5th
 Day: Saturday
 Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Fee: \$15.00 per person
 Location: TBA depending on water levels
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov



Adult Evening Kayak Float

Float down the cool, meandering Stones River, and forget about the hustle and bustle of city life. Enjoy the company of new and old friends as you appreciate your river experience and watch the day melt away. Share the evening with a loved one, or head out on a solo adventure. Wildlife, birds, and summer wildflowers are sure to appear on this excursion. Space is limited, and reservations are required. All equipment and instruction are provided.

Ages: Adult
 Date: September 16
 Day: Friday
 Time: 4:00 p.m.
 Fee: \$15.00 per person
 Location: TBA depending on water levels
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov

Adult Fall Hikes

Fall is in full swing, so come out and enjoy the beautiful colors, crisp air, and the beauty of nature as we hike along our paved trail for an easy stroll. A naturalist-led hike will let you experience the flavor of fall here at Barfield Crescent Park.

Ages: Adult
 Dates: October and November (No Adult Hike October 18)
 Days: Tuesdays
 Time: 9:00 a.m.
 Location: Wilderness Station
 Fee: Free
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, outdoor@murfreesboro.gov



Strollercoasters

Walk the Greenway for an hour each week with your child and stroller, and then "stay and play" for optional non-stroller activities for the kiddies. Enjoy meeting other parents and caregivers while you get in shape exploring the Greenway and spending time with your child. Anyone can join at anytime; no membership or registration is necessary.

Age: Birth - 5 years + adults
 Dates: September 1 - November 17
 Day: Thursdays
 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. to walk; then stay and play
 Location: Meet at Old Fort Park / Kids Castle
 Fee: Free
 Contact: Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, mtate@murfreesborotn.gov.
 In inclement weather, call 615-893-2141 or check the Murfreesboro Greenway Facebook page for cancellation information.





Greenway 100

Join the Greenway 100 club! Walk, run or bike 100 miles on the Greenway and receive a Greenway 100 t-shirt, car decal and certificate. After you register, you'll have one year to fill in your mileage on your Greenway 100 chart. Register at Sports*Com between September 1 and 30.

Ages: All ages
 Dates: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017, to walk, run or bike;
 Registration: September 1-30, 2016
 Fee: \$10
 Register: Sports*Com
 Contact: Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, mtate@murfreesborotn.gov

Greenway Art Festival

Sponsored by the Friends of the Greenway and Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation, this juried art show attracts talented artists from all over Middle Tennessee. Artists will be displaying and selling their works along the trail: oils, acrylics, watercolors, pottery, silversmithing, sculpture, glass and more. A kids' arts and crafts area will inspire your little ones to explore their creativity, and refreshments will be available from food vendors. Spend a relaxing Saturday enjoying art and nature along the Greenway.

Ages: All
 Date: Saturday, September 17
 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Fee: Free
 Location: Old Fort Park
 Contact: Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, mtate@murfreesborotn.gov



Murfreesboro Half Marathon

The Tenth Annual Murfreesboro Half Marathon ("The Middle Half") will be held Saturday, October 8.

The 13.1-mile race is scheduled to start at 7:00 a.m. with a wheelchair start at 6:55 a.m. Because the course runs by the geographic center of Tennessee, begins and ends at Middle Tennessee State University it has been tagged "The Middle Half." The course goes down scenic tree-lined Main Street and Maney Avenue to Oaklands Historic House Museum. Runners will circle the Rutherford County Courthouse on the Square, pass by MTSU's Fraternity Row and the obelisk on Old Lascassas Highway, and then finish on the MTSU track.

For more information, visit www.TheMiddleHalf.com



18th Annual Fall Harvest Hayride

Listen to live music as you toast marshmallows and eat s'mores around the campfire. An old-fashioned hayride along the Greenway is great fun for the whole family. Sponsored in part by the Friends of the Greenway.

Age: All
 Date: Thursday, November 10
 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Fee: \$2 per person. Ages 2 and under, and Friends of the Greenway members are free. Price includes a hayride and one s'more; additional food sold separately.
 Location: General Bragg Trailhead
 Contact: Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, mtate@murfreesborotn.gov

